



3rd Degree

NEWSLETTER

Knights of Columbus

Council #7014 Rockdale, Texas

JANUARY 2024



4th Degree

Council Meeting w/supper 2nd Tuesday @7pm,

Officers & Chairmen Mtg. (as needed)

2023-2024 COUNCIL OFFICERS

Chaplain.....Fr. Pedro Castillo
Grand Knight..... Kenny Svrcek
Dep. GK.....(vacant)
Chancellor..... Phil Konarik
Recorder..... Robert Zapata
Warden..... Charlie Watson
Treasurer (temp).....Lambert Skubal Jr.
Financial Sec.....(vacant)
Advocate.....Jim Grametbauer
Lecturer.....Chad Ehler
Inside Guard..... Marty Elman
Outside Guard.....Ronnie Mancillas
Trustee 1 Year..... Marty Elman
Trustee 2 Year.....Nick Guzman
Trustee 3 Year.....Craig Snow
Newsletter.....Phil Konarik
Dist. Deputy..... Tom Alejandro
KC Hall Booking Mgr.....512-585-9149

KC Ins. Field Agent.....George Strmiska
512-289-4834 em: george.strmiska@kofc.org
4th Degree, want to join, need info? Contact
SK Jesus R. Villarreal Jr, District 6 Master
254-654-9177 email: jrvill259@gmail.com



Bro. Paul Voelkel 84, died on Dec. 22, 2023. He was a 3rd degree Honorary Life, Charter member of the Knights of Columbus Council 7014 in Rockdale. Paul retired from ALCOA in 2002 and he and

Theresa left Rockdale and returned home to Hallettsville in 2003. Paul was a longtime active member of St. Joseph's Parish in Rockdale and served in the Army National Guard 1961-1967. Paul, along with Theresa, were faithful members of KC hall work crew #6. Paul liked working behind the bar, in the kitchen, at the BBQ pits, and anywhere there was work to do or fun to have. He was Knight of the Year 1986 in Rockdale. After moving he continued his KC membership in Hallettsville Council 2433 and was named Knight of the Year there too, in 2006. Our condolences to Paul's wife of 62+ years, Theresa, his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren.



VOLUNTEER HOURS DECEMBER:

CHARITABLE PROJ: 46 HRS

HALL MAINT. PROJ: 34 HRS

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES: 175 HRS



<https://www.facebook.com/rockdalekofc>



Helen Merka, 86, died on Dec. 4th, 2023. She was the wife of the late Bro. Thomas J. Merka (3-14-2017). Helen was born in Lott, TX and grew up in the Burlington area, attending schools in Cameron and graduating from Yoe High School in 1955. She was a parishioner of St. Joseph's Parish in Rockdale and a member of the Ladies Society. Helen and Tommy were faithful members of KC hall work crew #3 since the KC Hall opened in 1979. Our condolences to her sons Thomas J. Merka III (Connie) and Michael Merka, (Gayle) and four grandchildren, Thomas, Clayton, Kristene and Dalton.

KC'S ANNUAL LIGHT UP FOR CHRIST PROJECT

Set up helpers this year were Macario Flores, Kenny Svrcek, Phil & Debbie Konarik and Pat Watson. Fr. Pedro says: First of all, thanks to the knights for taking care of this beautiful scene year after year and the takedown and storage can be after the Epiphany, on Monday, Jan. 8th at 4:30 pm.

From the December Council Meeting: GK Kenny Svrcek welcomed members and guests to our annual open meeting Christmas Party and meal. A feast of pork steaks, sweet & Irish potatoes, green beans, salad, tea and desserts was enjoyed by a crowd of about 60. Preparing the meal were Lambert Skubal, Jr, Marty Elman, Willie Barcak, Charles Ehler, Chad Ehler, David Ehler, Jason Ehler and Wesley Janak. There was a round of applause and lots of complements for these knights. GK Kenny Svrcek's open meeting reviewed 2023 highlights and upcoming 2024 early events: Law Enforcement/First Responders Chili Supper in February and Lent Fish Fry Friday's, our major fundraiser also in February and March. KC Insurance Field Agent, George Strmiska and wife Kate were special guests attending. GK Kenny then thanked the knights and ladies for their faithful support of council projects during the year 2023.

- **COUNCIL 7014 EXPENSES** for December include TXU outside (parking lot) security lighting \$83.87, Electric bill: APG&E \$663.79, SWMWSC water \$119.51, Dillo Disposal \$200.38, Texas Propane \$332.65, BBQ Advertising \$80, Comptroller TABC (liquor license renewal) \$1200, KC Christmas Party \$406.46. Donations: \$350 St. Joseph's Church monthly tithe and Deceased Knights & Wives Memorial Mass, \$547.50 for 2024 Religious Calendars for St. Joseph's parishioners.
- **FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS** for the Dec. 15th 4000# delivery were: Phil Konarik, Pat Barcak, Willie Barcak, Pat Watson, Jim Andrews, Kathleen Andrews, George Strmiska, Mike Hornung and Bernie Doud. Reminder calls by Charlie Watson. Thanks guys, for taking time out of your day to help with this project assisting the needy in our town.
- **LENT FISH FRY FRIDAYS** are our next and biggest fundraising project. The Lenten season and Easter are early this Leap year. Lent begins on February 14 (yes, Valentines Day) with Ash Wednesday. That makes the Fish Fry #1 on February 16th. That begins our six Fish Fry Fridays that end on Friday, March 22. We are already planning the menu and pricing the supplies we'll need. Other considerations to decide on include whether to have a "drive thru" like during the pandemic or "dine in" like last year. Quite a few customers said they really liked the drive thru. Others really like getting together with their friends in the hall for dine in. Drive Thru benefits = less hall utility usage, cleanup, no tea, faster service. Dine In benefits = those customers that look forward to the fellowship will be happy. Or.....could we do both dine in and drive thru and maybe satisfy both types of customers and sell more plates? Both could have dessert.